

**MWRC Minutes**

Thursday, June 26, 2025

8:00-9:30 am

Via Zoom

**Attendees**

Ashland: Yolanda Greaves, Melissa Adams, Jasmin Farinacci  
Framingham: Rick McKenna, Yvonne Johnson  
Holliston: Barbara Peatie  
Marlborough: Katie Robey  
Natick: Morgan Griffiths, Amanda Loomis  
Sherborn: Robert Wolff, Marian Neutra, Heidi Doyle  
Southborough: Meme Lutrell  
Wayland: Mary Antes, Robert Hummel  
Wellesley: Colette Aufranc, Sheila Page, Eric Arbeene  
Weston: Imai Aiu  
Associate Members: Susan Nichol, Senate President Spilka's office; Elissa Landre, MassAudubon; Jason Palitsch, 495/MetroWest Partnership  
MAPC Coordinators: Travis Pollack, Camille Jonlin  
MAPC Staff: Alison Felix, David Loutzenheiser  
Guests: None

**Welcome & Call to Order**

- Meeting was called to order by Yolanda at 8:05. Quorum reached.

**Approval of April and May 2025 Minutes – Yolanda Greaves**

- Motion to approve April minutes by Colette Aufranc, seconded by Mary Antes; motion passed.
- Motion to approve May minutes by Robert Hummel, seconded by Colette Aufranc; motion passed.

**School Bus Electrification Roadmap Recap and Discussion – Alison Felix, MAPC**

- (See slides for details on the presentation by Alison Felix)
- This project was partially funded by MWRC Special Assessment
- It is a comprehensive guide for municipalities and school districts to transition to electrified school buses, with an interactive website for implementors and decisionmakers
- Start with a fleet assessment, work with utilities, select charging infrastructure, conduct site selection and planning, and support operations, maintenance, and safety; evaluate total cost of ownership, financing, and procurement; connect with peers and experts with the listed suggestions
- Colette: Any tips on collaborating across municipal boundaries if there aren't depot spaces in one town? Wellesley has our own municipal light plant for example. Alison: We heard a lot of interest in collaboration, and it has to be done upfront with some operational challenges but can be done

- 43 • Yolanda: Did you get feedback from the school bus companies/third party providers? Alison: We  
44 spoke with large and small providers, and small providers didn't know where to start and  
45 concerned about the expense – but larger companies are gradually electrifying and they focus  
46 their efforts in places where they hear priority from a school district or municipality
- 47 • Katie: Given the federal landscape and moves away from electrification, is there still funding  
48 available? Alison: we've had several rounds of funding from the EPA and we do anticipate it to  
49 move forward – electric school buses have bipartisan support, maybe because of children's health.  
50 Other grants are federally funded for charging infrastructure and tax incentives for using a depot  
51 property – those may potentially be phased out but that hasn't happened yet. The electric school  
52 bus industry is still advancing, and statewide there is still strong support, with programing coming  
53 through MassCEC, and new state programs may be released.
- 54 • David: Regarding Alison's presentation, my municipality has added electric garbage trucks and it's  
55 really a great quality of life improvement.

## 56 **MetroWest Trails Update – David Loutzenheiser & Travis Pollack, MAPC**

- 57 • Yolanda: we've been working on trails for ~8 years, through MWRC Special Assessment funding  
58 with some supplements. Welcome back David.
- 59 • Travis: David will recap what work has happened over the last year and talk through next steps.
- 60 • We started trails work during Chris Walsh's leadership, and have been pushing forward trail  
61 development annually since 2021. There are more connections to make to build out the network  
62 (see slides for key efforts over the past year and few years)
- 63 • We are not proposing the MetroWest Trail Summit this year; we are planning a region-wide one  
64 in the fall instead
- 65 • Travis: in the past, MWRC has funded \$10,000 annually for MetroWest trails work and the trails  
66 summit, but we have not made that request this year given the status and length of the work.  
67 Options: we can pause on MetroWest Trails Summit this year and folks can attend the regional  
68 one, or one or multiple municipalities can take the initiative to host if you all want to keep the  
69 MetroWest specific trails summit
- 70 • Camille: David is available from MAPC for consults on trail planning even if MWRC does not fund  
71 his MetroWest specific efforts this year – keep in touch with him.
- 72 • Marian: Sherborn has two important gaps in these trail systems, and in many cases, such as the  
73 Sudbury Aqueduct, the issue is private property. David: not letting perfect be the enemy of the  
74 good is the first step; getting a trail out of development and flagging the detours is a start to  
75 enacting work – happy to have a longer conversation about this offline. Travis: we're also thinking  
76 about near-term versus longer-term solutions; this challenge about aqueducts maybe should be  
77 addressed region-wide.
- 78 • David: regionally, we should work on signage and wayfinding for trails.
- 79 • Yolanda: would any community want to host? Rick: maybe Framingham.

## 80 **Projects Priority Discussion & Adoption of MWRC FY26 Work Plan – Camille Jonlin & Travis Pollack,** 81 **MAPC**

- 82 • (See presentation for overview of survey results and suggested projects)
- 83 • Imai: these project concepts both look great. Of the two, Imai would prioritize the I-90 corridor  
84 plan and building walkability/bike-ability between 3A sites. Outreach is really important but  
85 more nebulous, whereas the transportation idea is more concrete. Also, APA conference in Denver  
86 – there were a lot of people talking about how to do community engagement; planning discipline

- 87 has gotten to the point of recognizing it's hard to get people involved and get consensus, but Imai  
88 isn't confident that at this scale we'll get something more than the tools we have out there already  
89 to help us do this... but if MAPC does have something, we want to know it!
- 90 • Colette: didn't vote for MBTA/transportation project in the survey because Wellesley passed 3A  
91 and we're not sure what work has to be done for development by right. Wellesley is thinking  
92 through what to develop in town and walking on eggshells for this sensitive subject. The I-90 plan  
93 confused residents in that it was high-level and not necessarily about Wellesley, and housing has  
94 to be handled locally rather than regionally. Don't want MAPC to spend MWRC money on this.  
95 Love geothermal and communications work, just careful about regionalizing housing conversations.
  - 96 • Sheila: for MBTA Communities/3A/transportation - we need to be clear on the goal of the  
97 project... if it's a regional transportation component, that would be great, but adding to what  
98 Colette said it seems nebulous what the end goal is
  - 99 • Eric: really like the communications work, the strategic housing plan was completed and the I-90  
100 conversation after it caused some confusion. Wellesley is now thinking about outreach questions  
101 such as: when do we start telling people about plans. I really like the regional communications  
102 proposal, the death of the local newspaper hasn't been filled ... need different phases of plan to  
103 be outlined, how to reach out.
  - 104 • Katie: 3A zoning is done and by-right so not sure what other zoning changes would make sense...  
105 Marlborough voted down a communications position and they have a website that no one likes, so  
106 this is a big issue. Not very excited about geothermal, think state is not funding it as much.
  - 107 • Morgan: transportation project would be interesting for Natick because we are currently working  
108 to increase walkability of Natick Center where the 3A district is, but I would want to see what the  
109 goals would be and if it's complementary or duplicative of existing efforts. (in chat): +1 to the  
110 idea of exploring connections between different MBTA communities districts.
  - 111 • Marian: What is the relevancy for communities without MBTA service? Separately, can we address  
112 how people really get to public transportation (last mile)? This is more a state consideration but it's  
113 a problem.
  - 114 • Rick: geothermal work isn't just necessarily MetroWest; have spoken with Lizzi Weyant and  
115 connected with Julie Curti and Jeremy Koo (MAPC Clean Energy Department staff) to discuss work  
116 at a greater regional scale. Still working with Framingham State, MassBay, and Kefitech on  
117 workforce for geothermal and a geothermal drillers association Center of Excellence
  - 118 • Amanda: Putting together a workplan is hard when we're so diverse with different priorities –  
119 maybe everyone goes back to their communities and asks what regional issues are important.  
120 Separately, unlocking MassDOT and MBTA-owned land was critical for last-mile efforts like  
121 Marian is talking about... is there a way as a group we can approach this? Big question.  
122 Opportunity for freeway on/off exists (clover leaves) to have solar but not sure if that's the best  
123 use, e.g. Framingham was going to put development there but that fizzled because those state  
124 agencies own all that land.
  - 125 • Colette: seconding highway clover leaves, hoping those would be explored with electric school bus  
126 study, could we use them for charging stations? Received a no from state agencies to use this land  
127 as charging stations when she asked... how do we as a region have a voice at state agencies?  
128 Quarterly meeting to express the issues? We're trying to share our issues!
    - 129 ○ Imai and Eric seconding this idea of regular meetings with state agencies e.g. DCR,  
130 MassDOT, MBTA
  - 131 • Imai (in chat): There's an initiative to leverage state land, but my understanding is it's mostly  
132 private offers for homes: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/state-land-for-homes-initiative>

- 133 • Yolanda: Verdict of what we're hearing: The communication/engagement project is a yes... MBTA  
134 Communities project would need to be project more about transportation and first/last mile but  
135 less about housing and 3A districts. Geothermal Framingham is moving forward
- 136 • Amanda: Want to make sure everyone is doing work between meetings, so want to help out in  
137 between... and would it be helpful to go back to our communities and ask "what are the top 3  
138 regional issues?"
- 139 • Yolanda: Camille/Travis create a survey or way to ask your fellow city/town leaders: what are  
140 the top 3 regional things at SB or PB level? Eric: structure this as, "what are you looking for, e.g.  
141 this is what we're trying to do, here are some examples, what say you"...
- 142 • Katie: Not sure Marlborough understands/appreciates the regional priorities, if she were to share  
143 with City Council, so would need it to be a more general question

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#### 145 **Community Share – Yolanda Greaves**

146 **Prompt: What successes are you proud of from FY25, and what are you looking forward to in FY26?**

- 147 • (cut for time)

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#### 150 **Other Business Not Known at Time of Posting**

- 151 • Officer election will be in fall, please let us know if you're interested in serving on the MWRC  
152 Executive Board
- 153 • No summer MWRC meetings but please keep in touch with Camille, Travis, Yolanda
- 154 • Rick: ending position with City of Framingham but will be new ED of Framingham EDC – but may  
155 still sit in with MWRC!

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157 Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Yolanda, seconded by Rick. Meeting adjourned at 9:32

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159 Attachments: Electric School Bus Roadmap presentation; MWRC Trails presentation, MWRC Project  
160 Concepts presentation

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162 *Minutes compiled by Camille Jonlin, MAPC*

163 *Minutes approved September 25, 2025*

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